# Cutting planes for improved global logic-based outer approximation for the synthesis of process networks.

Francisco Trespalacios, Ignacio E. Grossmann\*

Department of Chemical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

\* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed: grossmann@cmu.edu

#### Abstract

In this work, we present an improved global logic-based outer approximation method (GLBOA) for the solution of nonconvex generalized disjunctive programs (GDP). The GLBOA allows the solution of nonconvex GDP models, and is particularly useful for optimizing the synthesis of process networks. Two enhancements to the basic GLBOA are presented. The first enhancement seeks to obtain feasible solutions faster by dividing the basic algorithm into two stages. The second enhancement seeks to tighten the lower bound of the algorithm by the use of cutting planes. The proposed method for obtaining cutting planes, the main contribution of this work, is a separation problem based in the convex hull of the feasible region of a subset of the constraints. Results show that the enhancements improve the performance of the algorithm, and that the algorithm is better in finding better feasible solutions than general purpose global solvers in the tested problems.

## **1** Introduction

The synthesis of process networks is an area of active research in Process Systems Engineering (PSE). The objective is to synthesize the optimal process flowsheet contained in a process superstructure[1], which contains alternative units (with their corresponding models) and interconnections. The synthesis process networks can be modeled as a mixed-integer nonlinear problem (MINLP) [2]. In the MINLP approach, the selection of units and interconnections are modeled using binary variables. The process unknowns (flow, concentration, temperature, etc.) are modeled using continuous variables. Alternative superstructure representations of processes have also been proposed[3–6].

The synthesis of process networks yields MINLP models that can be highly nonconvex. In particular, the nonconvexities arise in two forms. The first form involves the modelling of each individual process unit.

This models can range from linear input/output equations to large differential algebraic models. The second form of noconvexities arise in the modeling of flow and properties that result when mixing streams, in the simplest case as bilinear terms. It is important to note that when the units and interconnections are fixed in a superstructure, the resulting problem is a nonlinear program (NLP). This NLP, not only is continuous, but does not include nonconvexities related to the units or interconnections that were not selected. Because of these two reasons, it is common that the resulting NLP after fixing the discrete decisions is much simpler to solve than the full problem, provided that the constraints of the non-selected units and interconnections are removed from the NLP model. This property is not general for MINLPs, but very common in the synthesis process networks. General methods for solving MINLPs to global optimality do not take advantage of this particular property.

The most common deterministic method for solving nonconvex MINLP problems is the spatial branch and bound algorithm[7]. This algorithm is used by several general purpose MINLP global solvers, such as:  $\alpha$ BB[8], ANTIGONE[9], BARON[10, 11], Couenne[12], LINDO[13], and SCIP[14]. We refer the reader to the work by Bussieck and Vigerske[15] for details of the different MINLP solvers. In addition to the spatial branch and bound, Kesavan et al.[16] present an outer-approximation method for global optimization. This method builds on the traditional outer-approximation method for convex optimization[17, 18].

Other methods have been developed to exploit the simplification of problems when discrete decisions are fixed, typically in the form of logic-based Benders decomposition[19] (a generalization of the Benders decomposition[20] and Generalized Benders decomposition[21]). In particular for nonconvex MINLP, Li et al.[22] present a nonconvex generalized Benders decomposition method for stochastic MINLPs.

An alternative representation of MINLP is Generalized Disjunctive Programming (GDP)[23]. GDP models represent problems through the use of Boolean variables, algebraic equations and logic propositions[24]. Synthesis of process networks is one of the areas where GDP has been most successful. Raman and Grossmann[25] propose a GDP model for the synthesis of process networks. GDP problems can be reformulated as MINLP models by using the big-M (BM) of Hull-Reformulation (HR)[26, 27]. Alternatively, two specialized techniques are used for solving convex GDPs: GDP branch and bound[28] and logic-based outer approximation[29]. The logic-based outer approximation is of particular interest in the synthesis of process networks. This methods exploits the fact that the NLP that is generated when fixing the discrete alternatives is much simpler to solve than the original problem. This method iteratively solves a linear GDP approximation of the original GDP (master problem) and an NLP in which the discrete decisions are fixed (subproblem). The original logic-based outer approximation is valid only for convex GDPs. However, a valid logic-based outer approximation for the global optimization of nonconvex GDPs is presented by Bergamini et al.[30].

It is important to note that all of the global methods discussed so far require a convex MINLP/MILP relaxation of the original problem. This relaxation is obtained by reformulating the problem in univariate and

some specific multivariate functions[31] and then overestimating the feasible region of each constraint with convex inequalities[32–34].

In this work we improve the global logic-based outer approximation with two enhancements: one for finding feasible solutions faster, and a new strategy for improving the linear GDP approximation using cutting planes. The first enhancement is the partition of the algorithm into two phases. The first phase allows the evaluation of many discrete alternatives for a short period of time, but does not guarantee termination in a finite number of iterations. The second phase is the rigorous global logic-based outer approximation that terminates in a finite number of iterations. In order to diversify the search in the first phase, a penalty term in the objective function is also included. The second enhancement, and main contribution of this work, is a cutting plane method for improving the linear approximation of the nonconvex GDP. This method derives cuts based on the complete feasible region of the processing units, not based on individual constraints.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of GDP and its MINLP reformulations. The section also provides a brief review of the convex logic-based outer approximation, and a more detailed description of the basic form of the global logic-based outer approximation. Section 3 presents the two enhancements to the global logic-based outer approximation. First, the partition of the algorithm into two phases. Second, the new method for deriving cutting planes that improve the lower bound of the master problem. A simple illustrative example is also presented in this section. The algorithm is tested with several instances of the layout-optimization of screening systems in recovered paper production, several instances of a simplified generic superstructure that involves reactors and separation units, and a more realistic test case for the design of a distillation column for the separation of benzene and toluene with ideal equilibrium. The examples and results are presented in Section 4.

## 2 Background

## 2.1 Generalized disjunctive programming

Generalized disjunctive programming is a higher-level representation of MINLP problems. The general GDP formulation can be represented as follows:

$$\min c^{T} x$$
s.t.  $g(x) \leq 0$ 

$$\bigvee_{i \in D_{k}} \begin{bmatrix} Y_{ki} \\ r_{ki}(x) \leq 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad k \in K$$

$$\bigvee_{i \in D_{k}} Y_{ki} \qquad k \in K \qquad (GDP)$$

$$\Omega(Y) = True$$

$$x^{lo} \leq x \leq x^{up}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$$

$$Y_{ki} \in \{True, False\} \qquad k \in K, i \in D_{k}$$

In (GDP), the objective function is linear in the continuous variables  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .  $g(x) \leq 0$  are the global constraints of the problem (i.e. these constraints must be satisfied regardless of the discrete decisions). The formulation involves  $k \in K$  disjunctions, each of which contains  $i \in D_k$  disjunctive terms. The disjunctive terms in each disjunction are linked together by an "or" operator ( $\lor$ ). A Boolean variable  $Y_{ki}$  and a set of constraints  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$  are assigned to each disjunctive term. Exactly one disjunctive term in each disjunction must be enforced ( $\underset{i \in D_k}{\subseteq} Y_{ki}$ ). A Boolean variable takes a value of True ( $Y_{ki} = True$ ) when a disjunctive term is active, and the corresponding constraints  $(r_{ki}(x) \leq 0)$  are enforced. When a term is not active ( $Y_{ki} = False$ ), its corresponding constraints are ignored. The logic constraints  $\Omega(Y) = True$  represents the relations between the Boolean variables in propositional logic. Note that this is a general representation of any GDP. If the objective function is nonlinear f(x), a new variable  $x_{n+1}$  is introduced and the objective function is nonlinear f(x), a new variable  $x_{n+1}$  is only g(x) = 0, they can be represented by  $g(x) \leq 0$  and  $-g(x) \leq 0$ .

In the synthesis of process networks, each disjunction typically represents the decision of installing or not a processing units[29]. In such a case, the decisions are modeled as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_k \\ r_k(x) \le 0 \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_k \\ x = 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad k \in K$$
(1)

where k represents the processing unit and x the continuous variables involved in the selection of that unit, including cost.  $\Omega(Y) = True$  normally represents the topology of the superstructure, and the global constraints  $g(x) \leq 0$  are used to model mass and energy balances, as well as other global restrictions. If there are multiple exclusive units from which to select, then the disjunction can be modeled instead as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{k1} \\ r_{k1}(x) \le 0 \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} Y_{k2} \\ r_{k2}(x) \le 0 \end{bmatrix} \lor \ldots \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_{kn} \\ x = 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

where k1, k2, ..., kn are the alternative units.

GDP problems are typically reformulated as MILP/MINLP by using either the Big-M (BM) or Hull Reformulation (HR). The (BM) reformulation generates a smaller MINLP, while the (HR) provides a tighter formulation[35].

The (BM) reformulation is as follows:

$$\min c^T x$$
s.t.  $g(x) \le 0$ 
 $r_{ki}(x) \le M^{ki}(1 - y_{ki})$   $k \in K, i \in D_k$ 

$$\sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1$$
 $k \in K$ 
(BM)
 $Hy \ge h$ 
 $x^{lo} \le x \le x^{up}$ 
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 
 $y_{ki} \in \{0, 1\}$ 
 $k \in K, i \in D_k$ 

In (BM) the Boolean variables  $Y_{ki}$  are transformed into binary variables  $y_{ki}$ :  $Y_{ki} = True$  is equivalent to  $y_{ki} = 1$  and  $Y_{ki} = False$  is equivalent to  $y_{ki} = 0$ . Constraint  $\sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1$  enforces that exactly one disjunctive term is selected per disjunction. The transformation of logic constraints  $\Omega(Y) = True$  to integer linear constraints  $(Hy \ge h)$  is easily obtained[24, 36]. For an active term, the corresponding constraints  $r_{ki}(x) \le 0$  are enforced. For a term that is not active  $(y_{ki} = 0)$  and a large enough  $M^{ki}$ , the corresponding constraints  $r_{ki}(x) \le M^{ki}$  become redundant.

The (HR) formulation is given as follows:

 $min \ c^T x$ 

s

$$f. \quad g(x) \leq 0$$

$$x = \sum_{i \in D_{k}} \nu^{ki} \qquad k \in K$$

$$y_{ki}r_{ki}(\nu^{ki}/y_{ki}) \leq 0 \qquad k \in K, i \in D_{k}$$

$$\sum_{i \in D_{k}} y_{ki} = 1 \qquad k \in K \qquad (HR)$$

$$Hy \geq h$$

$$x^{lo}y_{ki} \leq \nu^{ki} \leq x^{up}y_{ki} \quad k \in K, i \in D_{k}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$$

$$y_{ki} \in \{0, 1\} \qquad k \in K, i \in D_{k}$$

In (HR), similarly to (BM), the Boolean variables  $Y_{ki}$  are transformed into 0-1 variables  $y_{ki}$ ,  $\Omega(Y) = True$  is transformed into  $Hy \ge h$ , and  $\sum_{i\in D_k} y_{ki} = 1$  enforces that only one disjunctive term is selected per disjunction. In (HR), the continuous variables x are disaggregated into variables  $\nu^{ki}$ , for each disjunctive term  $i \in D_k$  in each disjunction  $k \in K$ . The constraint  $x^{lo}y_{ki} \le \nu^{ki} \le x^{up}y_{ki}$  enforces that, when a term is active  $(y_{ki} = 1)$ , the corresponding disaggregated variables lie within their bounds. When it is not selected, they take a value of zero. The constraint  $x = \sum_{i\in D_k} \nu^{ki}$  enforces that the original variables x have the same value as the disaggregated variables of the active terms. The functions in the constraints of a disjunctive term  $(r_{ki}(x) \le 0)$  are represented by the perspective function  $y_{ki}r_{ki}(\nu^{ki}/y_{ki})$ . When a term is active  $(y_{ki} = 1)$  the constraint is enforced for the disaggregated variable  $(r_{ki}(\nu^{ki}) \le 0)$ . When it is not active  $(y_{ki} = 0)$ , the perspective function becomes  $A^{ki}\nu^{ki} \le a^{ki}y_{ki}$ . To avoid singularities in the perspective function, the following approximation can be used[37]:

$$y_{ki}r_{ki}(\nu^{ki}/y_{ki}) \approx ((1-\epsilon)y_{ki}+\epsilon)r_{ki}\left(\frac{\nu^{ki}}{(1-\epsilon)y_{ki}+\epsilon}\right) - \epsilon r_{ki}(0)(1-y_{ki})$$
(APP)

where  $\epsilon$  is a small finite number (e.g. 10<sup>-5</sup>). This approximation yields an exact value at  $y_{ki} = 0$  and  $y_{ki} = 1$  irrespective of the value of  $\epsilon$ , and is convex if  $r_{ki}$  is convex.

## 2.2 Convex Logic-based Outer Approximation

The logic-based outer approximation [29] iteratively solves a master problem and a subproblem. The master problem is a linear GDP relaxation of the original GDP that seeks to find a lower bound and an alternative for the vector of Boolean variables (Y). The master problem in the first iteration is obtained by outerapproximating the nonlinear functions at certain solutions ( $x^p$ ). The subproblem is an NLP in which the Boolean variables are fixed (i.e. setting  $Y_{ki} = True$  for the terms selected by the master problem). The subproblem provides an upper bound when a feasible solution is found. If the subproblem is infeasible, then an alternative NLP subproblem is solved (the feasibility subproblem). The solution of the subproblem  $(x^p)$  is used to perform further linearizations of the constraints, which are added to the master linear GDP. Note that for a given solution  $x^P$ , the linearizations are performed for the global constraints and for the constraints that correspond to the selected active terms  $(Y_{ki} = True)$ .

In the outer-approximation method, the linearization is performed by generating a first-order Taylor series approximation of the constraints. For a vector of nonlinear constraint  $(g(x) \le 0)$  and a given set of solutions  $((x^p); p = 1, ..., P)$ , the linearization is:  $g(x^p) + \nabla g(x^p)^T (x - x^p)$ . The main drawback of this linearization is that it provides a valid linear relaxation only for convex functions. If the function g(x) is nonconvex, this linearization can cut off regions that are feasible for  $g(x) \le 0$ . In such a case, the master linear GDP is no longer a linear relaxation of the problem.

The convex logic-based outer approximation guarantees convergence in finite iterations because the master problem and subproblem are equivalent for the discrete solutions in which the subproblem has been evaluated  $Y^p$ ; p = 1, ..., P. This means that if the master problem selects an alternative  $Y^p$  that was already evaluated in the subproblem (i.e. the linearization of this alternative is already included in the master problem), then the optimal objective value of the master problem and subproblem is the same. Clearly, if all the alternatives  $Y^p$ ; p = 1, ..., P that are feasible for the master problem are evaluated, then the lower bound of the master problem and the upper bound of the subproblem are the same. For details on the algorithm, its comparison to the traditional outer approximation method, and proof of convergence, we refer the reader to the review work by Trespalacios and Grossmann[38].

#### 2.3 Global Logic-based Outer Approximation

The idea behind the basic global logic-based outer approximation (GLBOA) is similar to the convex logicbased outer approximation. GLBOA iteratively solves a master problem and a subproblem. The master problem is a linear GDP relaxation of the nonconvex GDP, and the subproblem is an NLP in which the discrete decisions are fixed. The main difference in the algorithms is the method for obtaining the master problem and the method for solving the NLP subproblem (which needs to be solved to  $\epsilon$ -global optimality).

The NLP subproblem of GLBOA, for a given alternative  $Y^P$  in (GDP) is as follows:

$$\min c^{T} x$$
s.t.  $g(x) \leq 0$ 
 $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$   $\forall Y_{ki}^{P} = True$ 
 $x^{lo} \leq x \leq x^{up}$ 
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ 
(SP)

(SP) is an NLP in which the constraints  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$  that correspond to  $Y_{ki}^P = True$  are enforced, while the constraints that correspond to  $Y_{ki}^P = False$  are ignored. Note that (SP) can be nonconvex and it needs to be solved to global  $\epsilon$ -global optimality for the GLBOA method to be valid. If (SP) is solved to with a global optimization method, the method will provide and upper bound ( $Z^*$ ) and lower bound ( $Z^P$ ) for the objective function (i.e.  $Z^*$  corresponds to the feasible solution, so if (SP) is solved to  $\epsilon$ -global optimality, then ( $Z^* - Z^P$ )/ $Z^* \leq \epsilon$ ).

For a given  $Y^P$ , let  $P \in FS$  if (SP) is feasible and let  $Z^P$  be a lower bound for the objective function in (SP). Let  $P \in IS$  if (SP) is infeasible. Let  $y^P$  be the corresponding binary representation of fixed alternative  $Y^P$ . Consider the following integer "no-good-cuts" for a set of alternatives  $Y^p$ ; p = 1, ..., P in which the subproblem was evaluated:

$$Z \ge (Z^p - LB) \left( 1 - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki}) \right) + LB \qquad p \in FS$$
(3a)

$$\sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) + \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki}) \ge 0 \qquad p \in IS$$
(3b)

where Z is the objective function and LB is a global lower bound of the objective function. (3a) indicates that  $Z \ge Z^p$  if  $y = y^p$  and  $p \in FS$ . It indicates  $Z \ge LB$  for any other alternative. (3b) indicates that alternative y is infeasible for  $y = y^p$  and  $p \in IS$ .

The master problem (linear GDP) can be formulated using (3):

 $min \ Z$ 

$$\begin{array}{ll} s.t. & Z \geq c^T x \\ & A\hat{x} \leq a \\ & \bigvee_{i \in D_k} \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{ki} \\ y_{ki} = 1 \\ B_{ki}\hat{x} \leq b_{ki} \end{array} \right] \\ & \stackrel{\vee}{\underset{i \in D_k}{}} Y_{ki} \\ & \stackrel{\vee}{\underset{i \in D_k}{}} Y_{ki} \\ & \sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1 \\ & X \in K \\ & \sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1 \\ & X \in K \\ & \sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1 \\ & X \in K \\ & \sum_{i \in D_k} (1 - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki})) + LB \\ & P \in FS \\ & \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) + \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki}) \geq 0 \\ & p \in IS \\ & \hat{x}^{lo} \leq \hat{x} \leq \hat{x}^{up} \\ & \hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+s} \\ & 0 \leq y_{ki} \leq 1 \\ & K \in K, i \in D_k \\ & Y_{ki} \in \{True, False\} \\ \end{array}$$

The master problem (MP) is a linear GDP relaxation of the original GDP. The variables y are included inside the disjunctive terms of (MP) only to simplify the representation of the no-good-cuts and the description of the algorithm. These variables are not required in the GDP representation, and in the MILP reformulation of the GDP this variables are the same as y presented in (HR) and (BM). Some linear relaxations require the use of additional variables (e.g. when separating large constraints into univariate terms). For this reason, (MP) optimizes  $\hat{x} = (x, x_{aux})$ , which involves the original variables  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and possibly auxiliary variables  $x_{aux} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ .  $A\hat{x} \leq a$  is a linear relaxation of  $g(x) \leq 0$ , and  $B_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq b_{ki}$  is a linear relaxation of  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$ . There are different methods for obtaining the linear relaxations of the nonlinear constraints. Two of these methods include dropping the constraints that include nonlinear terms and using polyhedral envelopes for the nonlinear constraints[32, 33]. The former yields a weaker master problem than the latter (i.e. it provides a worse lower bound). Stronger approximations can be achieved by using picewise linear relaxations[26] and nonlinear convex approximations[33]. These two types of relaxations will not be addressed in this work.



Figure 1: Illustration of the feasible region of a) the original (GDP), b) the linear GDP relaxation (MP) and c) the subproblem (SP).

Figure 1 illustrates the feasible region of the original of (GDP), the master problem (MP) and the subproblem (SP). Figure 1.a) illustrates the feasible region of a GDP. Note that the disjunctive terms involve linear, convex and nonconvex feasible regions. Figure 1.b) illustrates a linear GDP relaxation of the original GDP. Finally, the intersection of the feasible regions presented in Figure 1.c) represents the resulting NLP subproblem for  $Y_{12} = Y_{21} = Y_{33} = True$ .

The basic global logic-based outer approximation is as follows:

0. Initialize. Let  $LS = IS = \emptyset$ . Set  $\epsilon_1 \ge \epsilon_2 > 0$ . Set P = 1 and  $UB = \infty$ .

1. Solve master problem. Solve (MP). Let  $(Z^*, \hat{x}^*, Y^*, y^*)$  be the optimal solution of (MP). Set  $y^P = y^*$ ,  $Y^P = Y^*$  and  $LB = Z^*$ .

2. Solve subproblem. Solve (SP), with fixed  $Y^P$ , to  $\epsilon_2$ -global optimality.

If (SP) is feasible, let  $(Z^*, x^*)$  be the optimal solution of (SP). Let  $Z^P$  be a lower bound for the objective function, provided by the NLP global solution method, and set  $P \in FS$ . If  $Z^* < UB$ , let  $UB = Z^*$  and  $(\bar{Z}, \bar{x}, \bar{Y}) = (Z^*, x^*, Y^P)$ .

If (SP) is infeasible, set  $P \in IS$ .

3. Terminate. If  $(UB - LB)/UB \le \epsilon_1$ , terminate with optimal solution  $(\overline{Z}, \overline{x}, \overline{Y})$ . Else, set P = P + 1and go to step 1.

**Theorem 2.1** The basic global logic-based outer approximation terminates in a finite number of iterations.

*Proof.* The cuts (3) are included in the master problem. This cuts enforce that: a) for  $Y^p$ ,  $p \in IS$  the

master problem will be infeasible; b) for  $Y^p$ ,  $p \in FS$  the optimal solution of the master problem will be  $Z^* \geq Z^p$ . This means that if all the  $Y^p$  solutions that are feasible for (MP) are evaluated, then  $LB \geq \min_{p \in FS} Z^p$ . (SP) is solved to  $\epsilon_2$ -global optimality, so  $(UB - \min_{p \in FS} Z^p)/UB \leq \epsilon_2$ . Since  $\epsilon_1 \geq \epsilon_2$ , then  $(UB - LB)/UB \leq \epsilon_1$ 

## **3** Improved Global Logic-based Outer Approximation

The basic global logic-based outer approximation terminates in a finite number of iterations, but the convergence can be slow. In this section we present two enhancements: one is to find feasible solutions faster, and another one is to improve the lower bound provided by the master problem.

## 3.1 Two-phase Algorithm to improve Upper Bound

The basic global logic-based outer approximation requires the solution of the NLP subproblem to global optimality. Therefore, it is possible that the algorithm takes a very long time even in the first iteration. In order to evaluate many iterations, it is possible to modify the algorithm and consider a relatively short time limit for the solution of the subproblem ( $\tau_{sub-limit}$ ). The step 2 of the algorithm can be modified as follows:

2. Solve subproblem. Solve (SP), with fixed  $Y^P$  and time limit  $\tau_{sub-limit}$ , using a global optimization method.

If (SP) is proven infeasible, set  $P \in IS$ .

If at least one feasible solution for (SP) is found, let  $(Z^*, x^*)$  be the best feasible solution found for (MP). Let  $Z^P$  be a lower bound for the objective function, provided by the NLP global solution method, and set  $P \in FS$ . If  $Z^* < UB$ , let  $UB = Z^*$  and  $(\overline{Z}, \overline{x}, \overline{Y}) = (Z^*, x^*, Y^P)$ .

If no feasible solution is found, but (SP) is not proven infeasible, let  $Z^P$  be a lower bound for the objective function provided by the NLP global solution method. Set  $P \in FS$ .

This modification of the algorithm allows to evaluate several different alternatives in a short period of time, assuming that the lower bound of the subproblems is still higher than the lower bound of the master problem. The downside of this modified algorithm as that it does not necessarily terminate in a finite number of iterations. In order to ensure that the algorithm terminates, the global logic-based outer approximation can be divided into two phases. The first phase is the modified version with a time limit for solving the subproblem. The second phase is the basic global logic-based outer approximation described in the previous section.

Note that this enhancement is useful when the solution to global optimality of the subproblem is the most time consuming step. It considers that the solution of the master problem (linear GDP) is "easy" in

comparison. Considering that the master problem can be solved as an MILP, and that MILP solvers have become considerably efficient, this is usually true. Furthermore, in the synthesis of process networks the nonlinear terms associated to the operation can be highly nonconvex. Therefore, solving an NLP with few units can be difficult to be handled by NLP global solvers. On the other hand, a linear GDP with a few hundred alternative units (e.g. a few hundred binary variables in the MILP reformulation) can typically be easily handled by MILP solvers.

An additional enhancement to the two-phase algorithm is to diversify the search of feasible solutions in the first phase. The reason for this is that the no-good-cuts (3) avoid the evaluation of the exact same alternative, but the cuts have no effect if there is just one difference in an alternative (vs. the alternatives previously evaluated). In order to search for more diverse solutions, the objective function in the first phase can be modified as follows:

$$\min Z - W \sum_{p=1,\dots,P-1} \left( \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) + \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki}) \right)$$
(4)

where W is a positive weighting parameter.

The modification of the objective function in (4) promotes the search for solutions that are "very different" from previously evaluated alternatives. This penalty term is only included in the first phase. Note that the algorithm has to be slightly modified in step 1 to ensure a valid lower bound, so the lower bound becomes  $LB = Z^* - W \sum_{p=1,...,P} \left( \sum_{y_{ki}^p=0} (y_{ki}^*) + \sum_{y_{ki}^p=1} (1-y_{ki}^*) \right) \text{ instead of } LB = Z^*.$ 

## 3.2 Cutting Planes to improve Lower Bound

The no-good-cuts (3) ensure the termination of the algorithm in a finite number of iterations. However, these cuts are useful only in avoiding the evaluation of previous solutions, and they normally do not have much impact in improving the lower bound. For this reason, we propose a new method to derive valid cuts that help to improve the lower bound.

The main objective of the proposed method is to derive linear inequalities that help to represent better the individual feasible region of the selected disjunctive terms. In the synthesis of process networks these linear inequalities will try to improve the linear representation of the nonconvex operating region of each unit. These linear inequalities will be obtained through a separation problem, extending the approach of Stubbs and Mehrotra[39] to nonconvex feasible regions. The cuts will be based on the strongest possible convex envelope (i.e. the convex hull) of the complete feasible region of the disjunctive term.

For clarity purposes, we first present the case in which the cut by Stubbs and Mehrotra[39] can be directly applied. Consider that, for a disjunctive term that was selected by the master problem  $(Y^P)$ , a nonlinear convex relaxation is available  $(\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0)$ . Consider that this convex relaxation is stronger than the linear

relaxation, so it is possible to establish the following relations on the feasible region of the selected term:

 $(r_{ki}(x) \leq 0) \subseteq (\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0) \subseteq (B_{ki}\hat{x} \leq b_{ki})$ , where  $\hat{x}^{lo} \leq \hat{x} \leq \hat{x}^{up}$ ,  $\hat{x} = (x, x_{aux})$ ,  $\hat{x}^{lo} = (x^{lo}, x_{aux}^{lo})$ , and  $\hat{x}^{up} = (x^{up}, x_{aux}^{up})$ . Figure 2.a) illustrates these three feasible regions, projected into the original space x.

Let  $x^*$  be the solution of the master problem at iteration P. Let  $Y_{ki}^P = True$  be a selected disjunctive term at iteration P, and assume that a nonlinear convex relaxation, that is stronger than the linear relaxation, is available for that term ( $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0$ ). It is then possible to obtain cuts in the original space x, that separate a point in  $x^*$  from the feasible region  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0$ , using the following separation problem[39]:

$$\min ||x - x^*||_2^2$$
s.t.  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \le 0$ 
 $\hat{x}^{lo} \le \hat{x} \le \hat{x}^{up}$ 
 $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+s}$ 
(5)

where  $\hat{x} = (x, x_{aux})$ .

Note that (5) is a convex NLP. Let  $\tilde{x}_{ki}^P$  be the value of x at the optimal solution of (5). Then the following inequality is a valid cut for  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0$ .

$$\left(\xi_{ki}^{P}\right)^{T}\left(x-\tilde{x}_{ki}^{P}\right) \ge 0 \tag{6}$$

where  $\xi_{ki}^{P} = 2(\tilde{x}_{ki}^{P} - x^{*}).$ 

Inequality (6) lies in the original space of the variables x, and it is valid for any convex region  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0$ [39]. Because  $(r_{ki}(x) \leq 0) \subseteq (\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0)$ , it is also valid for  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$ . Note that the objective function in (5) evaluates the distance using the square of the Euclidean norm, which provides a good cut and an analytical expression for the subgradient  $\xi_{ki}^P$ . Any other norm also provides a valid cut, but the subgradient  $\xi_{ki}^P$  has to be adjusted accordingly. The separation problem (5), and the cut generated from it (6) are illustrated in Figure 2.b) (projected into the original space x).

In order to obtain the cut, it is necessary to solve (5), which requires the knowledge of a convex relaxation of the problem. However, we present an alternative separation problem that not only allows to obtain a cut without  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \leq 0$ , but it also derives the cut using the strongest possible convex envelope of  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$ (i.e. its convex hull). The new separation problem is as follows:



Figure 2: Illustration of the feasible region and cuts generated for  $r_{ki}(x) \le 0$ ,  $\hat{r}_{ki}(\hat{x}) \le 0$ , and  $B_{ki}\hat{x} \le b_{ki}$ ; projected into the original space.

$$\min ||x - x^*||_2^2$$
s.t. 
$$x = \lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda) x_2$$

$$r_{ki}(x_1) \le 0$$

$$r_{ki}(x_2) \le 0$$

$$x^{lo} \le x_1, x_2 \le x^{up}$$

$$0 \le \lambda \le 0.5$$
(7)

**Theorem 3.1** The projection of the feasible region of (7) into the original space of x is the convex hull of the feasible region described by  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$  and  $x^{lo} \leq x \leq x^{up}$ .

The proof of Theorem 3.1 is trivial. The feasible region of (7) describes x as a convex combination of two points, both of which satisfy  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$  and  $x^{lo} \leq x \leq x^{up}$  (which is the description of the convex hull itself). The feasible region of (7), projected into the original space, is illustrated in Figure 3.a).

Since the projection of the feasible region of (7) into the original space is convex, the inequality (6) is also a valid cut if  $\tilde{x}_{ki}^{P}$  is set as the value of x at the optimal solution of (7). The cut generated using separation problem (7) is illustrated in Figure 3.b).

Separation problem (7) provides a tool for generating linear cuts that separate a point  $x^*$  from the convex hull of the feasible region of a selected disjunctive term ( $Y_{ki} = True$ ). The main downside of (7) is that it is nonconvex since it involves  $r_{ki}(x_1)$ ,  $r_{ki}(x_2)$  that can be noconvex, and the bilinear terms in  $x = \lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2$ . Furthermore, in order to obtain a valid cut it is necessary to solve (7) to global optimality. Even though (7) can be difficult to solve, it is important to consider that: a) (7) is solved for an individual disjunctive term, which normally involves a small fraction of the total number of constraints of the original problem; and b)



Figure 3: Illustration of the feasible region and cuts generated for  $r_{ki}(x) \leq 0$ ,  $B_{ki}\hat{x} \leq b_{ki}$ , and the feasible region of (7); projected into the original space.

the cut is not necessary for the convergence algorithm, it only helps to provide better lower bounds (so it is possible to try to obtain the cuts only for a short period of time).

In order to improve the global logic-based outer approximation using (7), the master problem of the basic global logic-based outer approximation is modified as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} \min Z \\ Z \ge c^T x \\ A\hat{x} \le a \\ & \bigvee_{i \in D_k} \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{ki} \\ y_{ki} = 1 \\ B_{ki}\hat{x} \le b_{ki} \\ (\xi_{ki}^p)^T (x - \bar{x}_{ki}^p) \ge 0 \ \forall p \in CC_{ki} \end{array} \right] \\ & \stackrel{\vee}{\underset{i \in D_k}{}} Y_{ki} \\ \sum_{i \in D_k} y_{ki} = 1 \\ Q(Y) = True \\ Z \ge (Z^p - LB) \left( 1 - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (y_{ki}) - \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (1 - y_{ki}) \right) + LB \\ \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 0} (y_{ki}) + \sum_{y_{ki}^p = 1} (1 - y_{ki}) \ge 0 \\ p \in IS \\ \hat{x}^{lo} \le \hat{x} \le \hat{x}^{up} \\ \hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+s} \\ 0 \le y_{ki} \le 1 \\ \end{array}$$
 (MP2)

s.t.

 $Y_{ki} \in \{True, False\} \qquad \qquad k \in K, i \in D_k$ 

where  $(\xi_{ki}^P)^T (x - \tilde{x}_{ki}^P) \ge 0$  are the cuts that were generated for that disjunctive term using (7). The feasible region of (MP2) is illustrated in Figure 4.

Considering that (7) may be difficult to solve but that the cuts are not necessary for the convergence of the algorithm, the basic global logic-based outer approximation can be modified as follows:

0. Initialize. Let  $LS = IS = CC_{ki} = \emptyset$ . Set  $\epsilon_1 \ge \epsilon_2 > 0$ . Set P = 1 and  $UB = \infty$ . Set  $\tau_{sep-limit}$ .

1. Solve master problem. Solve (MP2). Let  $(Z^*, \hat{x}^*, Y^*, y^*)$  be the optimal solution of (MP) where  $\hat{x}^* = (x^*, x^*_{aux})$ . Set  $y^P = y^*$ ,  $Y^P = Y^*$  and  $LB = Z^*$ .

2. Find cuts. For every  $Y_{ki}^P = True$  that involves nonconvex terms, solve (7) with time limit  $\tau_{sep-limit}$ .

If (7) solves to proven global optimality and  $|x - x^*|^2 > 0$ , let  $\tilde{x}_{ki}^P$  be the value of x at the optimal solution of (5), and  $\xi_{ki}^P = 2(\tilde{x}_{ki}^P - x^*)$ . Let  $p \in CC_{ki}$ .

3. Solve subproblem. Solve (SP), with fixed  $Y^P$ , to  $\epsilon_2$ -global optimality.



Figure 4: Illustration of the feasible region of (MP2).

If (SP) is feasible, let  $(Z^*, x^*)$  be the optimal solution of (SP). Let  $Z^P$  be a lower bound for the objective function, provided by the NLP global solution method, and set  $P \in FS$ . If  $Z^* < UB$ , let  $UB = Z^*$  and  $(\bar{Z}, \bar{x}, \bar{Y}) = (Z^*, x^*, Y^P)$ .

If (SP) is infeasible, set  $P \in IS$ .

4. Terminate. If  $(UB - LB)/UB \le \epsilon_1$ , terminate with optimal solution  $(\overline{Z}, \overline{x}, \overline{Y})$ . Else, set P = P + 1and go to step 1.

Note that both phases in the two-phase algorithm can include the cuts in the same manner. Also note that the cuts could be included in the NLP subproblem to help the global solvers find the optimal solutions faster. From computational experiments we observed that the cuts do not help in reducing the solution time of the subproblem. Finally, note that no cutting planes are included in the global constraints in the described algorithm. If needed, the global constraints (or a subset of the global constraints) can be considered as disjunction with a single term, and the described algorithm would generate the corresponding valid cutting planes.

## **3.3** Illustrative example

We illustrate the algorithm with the following simple analytical example:



Figure 5: Illustration of the feasible region of example (8): (a) original GDP; (b) linear relaxation using polyhedral envelopes; (c) linear relaxation dropping nonlinear constraints.

$$min \ 5 + 0.2x_1 - x_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} \\ x_2 \le 0.4exp(x_1/2) \\ x_2 \le 0.5(x_1 - 2.5)^2 + 0.3 \\ x_2 \le 6.5/(x_1/0.3 + 2) + 1 \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} Y_{12} \\ x_2 \le 0.3exp(x_1/1.8) \\ x_2 \le 0.5/(x_1/1.2 - 2.1)^2 + 0.3 \\ x_2 \le 6.5/(x_1/0.8 + 1.1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_{21} \\ x_2 \le 0.9exp(x_1/2.1) \\ x_2 \le 1.3(x_1/1.5 - 1.8)^2 + 0.3 \\ x_2 \le 6.5/(x_1/0.8 + 1.1) \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} Y_{22} \\ x_2 \le 0.4exp(x_1/1.5) \\ x_2 \le 1.2(x_1/ - 2.5)^2 + 0.3 \\ x_2 \le 6/(x_1/0.6 + 1) + 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)  
$$Y_{11} \lor Y_{12} \\ Y_{21} \lor Y_{22} \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \\ Y_{11}, Y_{12}, Y_{21}, Y_{22} \in \{True, False\}$$

The feasible region of the example is presented in Figure 5. The figure shows: (a) the feasible region of the original GDP; (b) the feasible region of the linear relaxation using polyhedral envelopes; and (c) the feasible region of the linear relaxation if the nonlinear constraints are dropped (i.e. only the variable bounds are considered).

The optimal objective value is 4.46 with  $Y_{11} = Y_{22} = True$  and  $(x_1, x_2) = (1.47, 0.83)$ .

The two-phase algorithm is a basic modification of the algorithm. Furthermore, for a very small problem such as (8), limiting the solution time of the NLP subproblem makes no difference. For this reason, we

illustrate the algorithm and derivation of cutting planes with a one-phase algorithm.

0. Initialize. Let LS = IS = CC<sub>ki</sub> = Ø. ε₁ = 0.1; ε₂ = 0.005. Set P = 1 and UB = ∞. Set τ<sub>sep-limit</sub>.
1. Solve master problem. For the master problem, we consider the most basic type of linear relaxation (i.e. dropping all the constraints that involve nonlinear terms). Since the bound of the variables are still part of the problem, consider the following master problem:

$$\min Z$$
s.t.  $Z \ge 5 + 0.2x_1 - x_2$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} Y_{12} \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{21} \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} Y_{22} \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Y_{11} \lor Y_{12}$$

$$Y_{21} \lor Y_{22}$$

$$0 \le x_1 \le 5$$

$$0 \le x_2 \le 3$$

$$Y_{11}, Y_{12}, Y_{21}, Y_{22} \in \{True, False\}$$
(9)

The optimal solution of (9) is  $(Z^*, x_1^*, x_2^*) = (2, 0, 3)$  with  $y_{11}^1 = y_{22}^1 = 1$ ;  $y_{12}^1 = y_{21}^1 = 0$ .  $Y_{11}^1 = Y_{22}^1 = True$  and LB = 2.

2. Find cuts. For  $Y_{11}^P = True$  the following separation problem is obtained:

$$\min (x_1 - 0)^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2$$
  

$$t.$$

$$x_1 = \lambda x_{11} + (1 - \lambda) x_{12}$$

$$x_2 = \lambda x_{21} + (1 - \lambda) x_{22}$$

$$x_{21} \le 0.4 exp(x_{11}/2)$$

$$x_{21} \le 0.5(x_{11} - 2.5)^2 + 0.3$$

$$x_{21} \le 6.5/(x_{11}/0.3 + 2) + 1$$

$$x_{22} \le 0.4 exp(x_{12}/2)$$

$$x_{22} \le 0.5(x_{12} - 2.5)^2 + 0.3$$

$$x_{22} \le 6.5/(x_{12}/0.3 + 2) + 1$$

$$0 \le x_{11}, x_{12} \le 5; \quad 0 \le x_{21}, x_{22} \le 3; \quad 0 \le \lambda \le 1$$
(10)

The global optimal solution of (10) is  $(\tilde{x}_{111}^{11}, \tilde{x}_{211}^{11}) = (0.670, 0.587)$  with value of objective function 6.27. With this values:  $\xi_{11}^1 = [1.34, -4.825]^T$ . Set  $1 \in CC_{11}$ .

The following valid cut for the term corresponding to  $Y_{11}$  is obtained:  $1.34(x_1 - 0.670) - 4.83(x_2 - 0.587) \ge 0$ . Figure 6 shows the cut obtained by solving 10. Figure 6.a) shows the cut and the nonconvex region of the disjunctive term. Note that the cut is generated based on the feasible region of the dijunctive term, and not based on individual constraints. Figure 6.b) shows the linear relaxation before the cutting plane (only the variable bounds). Figure 6.c) shows the relaxation after applying the cutting plane. Note that the feasible region after including this cut is different from the feasible region of the linear relaxation using polyhedral envelopes, presented in Figure 5.

For  $Y_{22}^P = True$  the separation problem is also solved and the following cut is obtained:  $1.99(x_1 - 0.994) - 4.28(x_2 - 0.862) \ge 0$ .

3. Solve subproblem. The following NLP is solved to global optimality:

s



Figure 6: Illustration of the feasible region of the term corresponding to  $Y_{11}$ , before and after the cut obtained by solving (eq:example3).

$$\min 5 + 0.2x_1 - x_2$$
s.t.  

$$x_2 \le 0.4exp(x_1/2)$$

$$x_2 \le 0.5(x_1 - 2.5)^2 + 0.3$$

$$x_2 \le 6.5/(x_1/0.3 + 2) + 1$$

$$x_2 \le 0.4exp(x_1/1.5)$$

$$x_2 \le 1.2(x_1/-2.5)^2 + 0.3$$

$$x_2 \le 6/(x_1/0.6 + 1) + 0.5 \quad 0 \le x_1 \le 5$$

$$0 \le x_2 \le 3$$
(11)

1. Solve master problem. The new master problem (including the variables y to simplify the presentation of the no-good-cut) is as follows:

 $min \ Z$ 

$$\begin{split} s.t. & Z \ge 5 + 0.2x_1 - x_2 \\ & \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{11} \\ y_{11} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \\ 1.34(x_1 - 0.670) - 4.83(x_2 - 0.587) \ge 0 \end{array} \right] \vee \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{12} \\ y_{12} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{array} \right] \\ & \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{21} \\ y_{21} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{array} \right] \vee \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{22} \\ y_{22} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{array} \right] \\ & \left[ \begin{array}{c} Y_{22} \\ y_{22} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \end{array} \right] \\ & \left[ \begin{array}{c} 2 \ge (4.44 - 2)(1 - y_{12} - y_{21} - (1 - y_{11}) - (1 - y_{22})) + 2 \\ Y_{11} \lor Y_{12} \\ Y_{21} \lor Y_{22} \\ y_{11} + y_{12} = 1 \\ y_{21} + y_{22} = 1 \\ 0 \le x_1 \le 5 \\ 0 \le x_2 \le 3 \\ Y_{11}, Y_{12}, Y_{21}, Y_{22} \in \{True, False\} \\ 0 \le y_{11}, y_{12}, y_{21}, y_{22} \le 1 \end{split} \end{split}$$
(12)

The optimal solution is  $(Z^*, x_1^*, x_2^*) = (2, 0, 3)$  with  $y_{12}^2 = y_{21}^2 = 1$ ;  $y_{11}^2 = y_{22}^2 = 0$ .  $Y_{12}^2 = Y_{21}^2 = True$  and LB = 2.

2. Find cuts.

For  $Y_{12}^P = True$  (7) is solved and the following cut is obtained:  $1.27(x_1 - 0.635) - 5.08(x_2 - 0.459) \ge 0$ . For  $Y_{21}^P = True$  (7) is solved and the following cut is obtained:  $1.79(x_1 - 0.896) - 5.19(x_2 - 1.402) \ge 0$ . 3. Solve subproblem. The subproblem is fixed for  $Y_{12}^2 = Y_{21}^2 = True$ . The is feasible with  $(Z^*, x_1^*, x_2^*) = (4.59, 1.586, 0.724)$ . The lower bound provided by the global solver is  $Z^P = 4.57$ . Set  $2 \in FS$ .

4. Terminate?.  $(UB - LB)/UB = (4.46 - 2)/4.46 = 0.55 \ge \epsilon_1$ . Set P = 3 and go to step 1.

In the next iteration the master problem gives a lower bound of 4.21 and  $Y_{12}^2 = Y_{21}^2 = True$ . Since

	Algorit	thm with cutting planes	Algorithm without cutting plane						
Iteration	LB	UB	LB	UB					
1	2	4.46	2	4.46					
2	2	4.46	2	4.46					
3	4.21	4.46	2	4.46					
4	-	-	2	4.46					
5	-	-	4.44	4.46					

Table 1: Performance of the algorithm with and without cutting planes for the illustrative example

 $(UB - LB)/UB = (4.46 - 4.21)/4.46 = 0.06 \le \epsilon_1$  the algorithm terminates in the third iteration. Note that the algorithm, without the cutting planes, would require two more iterations to finish (i.e. it requires to evaluate all of the alternatives of the problem). Table 1 summarizes the performance of the algorithm, with and without cutting planes, for the illustrative example.

## **4** Numerical Examples and Results

In this section we present three examples: layout-optimization of screening systems, superstructures involving reactors and separation units, and design of a distillation column for the separation of benzene and toluene with ideal equilibrium. The first two examples are tested with 20 instances each. The parameters in these instances were created randomly. However, the structure of the problem and constraints represent the actual operation of ideal units. The last example uses real data, equilibrium relations, etc. All of the instances were solved using GAMS 24.3.3[40], using an Intel(R) Core(TM) i7 CPU 2.93 GHz and 4 GB of RAM. For comparison, all instances were formulated as MINLP using the BM reformulation and solved with BARON 14.0.3[11]. It was not possible to accurately compare with ANTIGONE 1.1 [9] and SCIP 3.1[14]. The former returned "infeasible" in instances to which known solutions existed, and with the latter the computer ran out of memory in several instances. All of the variable bounds in these problems are defined.

The algorithm stays in the first phase for 20% of the time limit (which is 7,200 seconds in all instances or if there is no improvement in the best known solution after 50 iterations. The weight parameter (W) in the first phase is calculated as follows:  $W = LB/((P-1)(\sum_{k \in K} D_k))$ . The idea behind this weight value is that the penalty for diversifying solutions will never be greater than the value of the lower bound. In the extreme in which every single binary variable is different from all previously evaluated solutions (which can only happen in a very specific situation), then the penalty function has exactly the same value as LB. The time limit for generating cuts in each selected term is 10 seconds in the first phase and 120 seconds in the second phase. The time limit for the subproblem in the second phase is 10 seconds for the first two examples and 60 seconds for the design of the distillation column. All of the master problems were solved by reformulating



Figure 7: Two alternative configurations for a three stage screening system.

the linear GDP as MILP using the BM reformulation and using CPLEX 12.6.0.1[41]. Note that, because in this instances the master problem is much simpler than the subproblems, using BM or HR reformulation in the master problem has little impact on the performance of the algorithm. The subproblem and separation problem were solved with BARON 14.0.3.

#### 4.1 Layout-optimization of screening systems in recovered paper production

This problem is a GDP representation of the MINLP presented by Fügenschuh et al.[42]. The problem seeks to optimize the layout of multi-stage-screening systems, in order to separate the impurities (stickies) from the paper pulp. In addition to optimizing the configuration, the problem presented in this section also among alternative units with different rejection and cost coefficients. Figure 7 illustrate two alternative configurations for a screening system with three units. The GDP formulation of this problem is presented in Appendix A. The nonconvexities arise in the cost constraints and in the relationship of the separation efficiency and the rejection rate. The statistics and detailed results of the 20 tested instances are presented in Appendix B.

Figure 8 presents the performance of BARON and the algorithm. The plot shows the average relative bound (upper and lower) for 20 instances vs. time. The relative upper (lower) bound is obtained by dividing the upper (lower) bound by the best known solution to that instance. If there is no solution found for an instance, the relative upper bound was set to 5. In this figure, the linearization in master problem of the algorithm is performed by using polyhedral envelopes of the nonconvex functions. Figure 8 shows that, on average, the algorithm finds slightly better solutions. However, BARON is better in finding good solutions faster and provides a slightly better lower bound in average for this problem.

Figure 9 presents the performance of the basic logic-based outer approximation, and how it improves with the different enhancements. In this analysis, the linear GDP in the master problem is obtained through polyhedral envelopes. Similarly to Figure 8, the plot shows the average relative bound (upper and lower) for 20 instances vs. time. Figure 9.a) shows the improvements when the algorithm is divided into two phases, and it does not include the cuts. The plot shows that dividing the algorithm into two phases helps to find feasible solutions faster. Furthermore, by including the penalty term in the objective function the algorithm finds good solutions slightly faster than without it. As expected, the two-phase algorithm and penalty function have no significant impact in the lower bound. Figure 9.b) presents the performance of the algorithm with



Figure 8: Performance of BARON and the complete algorithm, for layout-optimization of screening systems, using polyhedral envelopes for the linear relaxation in the master problem.



Figure 9: Performance of the algorithm, for layout-optimization of screening systems with, a) two-phase enhancement, and b) cutting planes.

and without the cuts. The plot shows that the cuts slightly improve the lower bound. It also shows a very small improvement in the upper bound. Although the cuts are not intended to improve the upper bound, by having a better linear GDP representation in the master problem the algorithm selects better alternatives to evaluate in the subproblem.

Figure 10 also presents the performance of the with and without cuts. However, in this case the linear GDP in the master problem was obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints (instead of using polyhedral envelopes). The lower bound of the problem is zero and does not change when using the algorithm without cutting planes. If the cutting planes are used in the algorithm then the average lower bound increases considerably, up to 0.6 relative to the best known solution. It can also be observed form the figure that the upper bound improves as well. The reason for this is that by having a more accurate linear representation, the master problem selects better alternatives to evaluate in the subproblem. Note that the lower bound considerably improves at around 1,400 seconds. The main reason is that at around this time the algorithm moves from the first phase to the second phase. This means that: a) the penalty function for diversification in the first phase does not allow much improvement in the lower bound; and b) the time limit for generating cuts is 10 seconds



Figure 10: Performance of the algorithm, for layout-optimization of screening systems, with and without cutting planes when dropping the nonlinear constraints in the master problem.

in the first phase (vs. 120 seconds in the second one) so several additional cuts are generated in the second phase.

#### 4.2 Reactor-separator process superstructure

In this problem a set of reactors and separation units are given, as well as different material sources and product demands. The problem seeks to minimize the cost of satisfying that demand. Any equipment can be selected, and any interconnections between potential equipment is allowed. In this example, the product is component C and the raw materials are component A and B. Each source has a different concentration of A and B. A is the most volatile component, then B, and then C. The reactors follow second order kinetics  $(A + B \rightarrow C)$ , and the kinetic and cost parameters are random variables. The separation is assumed to be sharp (e.g. it separates A from B and C). It is assumed that the two outer streams of the separation units have the same total molar concentration as the inlet stream. An illustration of a process superstructure with three potential sources, two reactors and two separating units is presented in Figure 11.a). For illustration purposes, the figure does not show the interconnection of units from and to the separation units. This interconnections are in fact allowed in the general formulation. This simple example contains several process networks embedded as presented in Figure 11.b). The problem formulation is presented in Appendix A, and the statistics and detailed results of the instances are presented in Appendix B.

Figure 12 presents the performance of BARON and the algorithm for the process superstructure, similarly to the results that Figure 8 presents for the layout-optimization of screening systems. 20 instances of this problem were tested. If there is no solution found for an instance is was averaged as a relative upper bound of 5. In this figure, the linearization in master problem of the algorithm is performed by using polyhedral envelopes of the nonconvex functions. Figure 8 shows that the proposed algorithm performs much better than BARON. In particular, the average relative lower bound is very similar for both methods, but the upper



Figure 11: Illustration of process superstructure with two reactors and two separators.



Figure 12: Performance of BARON and the complete algorithm, for reactor-separator process superstructure, using polyhedral envelopes for the linear relaxation in the master problem.

bound (i.e. the finding of feasible solutions) is much better for the enhanced GLBOA. The reason for this is that BARON is able to find a feasible solution in only 2 of the 20 instances (see Appendix B); therefore the average relative upper bound is almost 5. The algorithm finds feasible solutions in every problem, and very close to the lower bound in most cases.

Figure 13 presents the performance of the different versions of the logic-based outer approximation for the 20 instances of this problem. In this analysis, the linear GDP in the master problem is obtained through polyhedral envelopes. Figure 13.a) shows the improvements when the algorithm is divided into two phases, and it does not include the cuts. In this example, the two-phase algorithm does not show much improvement when compared to the basic GLBOA. However, by including the penalty in the objective function the two-phase algorithms improves drastically. The main reason for this is that the discrete solutions provided by the master problem are not good when the subproblem is evaluated. By including the penalty function, the solutions are diversified and the algorithm is able to find much better solutions. Figure 13.b) shows the impact of using the cutting planes. In this example, the cutting planes do not help to improve the lower bound since the polyhedral envelopes already provide a very good linear approximation (as can be observed from the lower bounds in Figures 12 and 13).



Figure 13: Performance of the algorithm, for layout-optimization of screening systems with, a) two-phase enhancement, and b) cutting planes.



Figure 14: Performance of the algorithm, for reactor-separator process superstructure, with and without cutting planes when dropping the nonlinear constraints in the master problem.

Figure 14 presents the performance of the algorithm with and without cuts, dropping the nonlinear constraints to generate the master problem (instead of using polyhedral envelopes). It can be observed that the average relative lower bound improves considerably by including the cutting planes. Without the cutting planes, the average relative lower bound is about 0.6. With the cutting planes, the algorithm improves and provides a lower bound of 0.9. It can be seen in this plot that the major improvement happens at around 1,400 seconds, which is about the time limit for the first phase.

# 4.3 Design of distillation column for the separation of benzene and toluene with ideal equilibrium

This problem is presented by Yeomans and Grossmann[43]. The objective is to design a distillation column for the separation of Benzene and Toluene, assuming ideal equilibrium. The feed to the column has a composition of are 100 kmol/h of benzene and 50 kmol/h of toluene. The required purity for the product is 99% benzene in the overhead and a minimum recovery of 50%. The GDP model uses a tray by tray representation of the distillation column. The separation is carried out at 1.01 bar. Figure 15 illustrates the idea of the GDP



Figure 15: Illustration of the GDP model representation for tray by tray design of distillation columns.

formulation. In the model, there are three trays that are fixed, so the MESH (Mass-Equilibrium-Summation-Heat) constraints for this plates are enforced (i.e. they are global constraints). The MESH constraints corresponding to the plates in the rectification and stripping sections are conditional: if a tray is installed then MESH constraints are enforced; if it is not selected then the trays are simply a bypass. For details on the MESH equations, we refer the reader to the original model[43]. The MINLP reformulation of this problem using the BM has 3,257 constraints, 1,758 variables and 64 discrete variables.

For this problem, BARON 14.0 is not able to find a feasible solution and provides a lower bound of -119. For the algorithm, the master problem was obtained by using polyhedral envelopes for the linearizations. Figure 16 shows the performance of the algorithm with the different enhancements. This figure shows the progress of the upper and lower bounds with time (not relative upper and lower bounds as presented in the previous figures). From the figure, it can be observed that the lower bound is quite weak in all cases, and Figure 16.b) shows that the cutting planes do not help to obtain better bounds. The main reason for this is that the separation problems in this example take a long time, so only 5 cuts were generated by the algorithm. These cuts did not have any effect on improving the relaxation. On the other hand, it is clear that the upper bound improves considerably with the enhancements. In particular, neither BARON nor the basic LBOA can find a feasible solution within two hours. In contrast, the two-stage algorithm finds a feasible solution of 268 after 244 seconds; a good solution (within 10% of the best known solution) of 80.6 after 2,200 seconds; and the best solution it finds is 73.9 after 5,640 seconds. The two-stage algorithm with penalty function for



Figure 16: Performance of the algorithm, for reactor-separator process superstructure, with a) Two-phase enhancement and b) cutting planes.

diversification finds a feasible solution of 85 after 122 seconds; a good solution of 77 after 980 seconds; and the best solution it finds is 74.3 after 5,815 seconds. With cutting planes, the algorithm finds a feasible solution of 85 after 130 seconds; a good solution of 77 after 830 seconds; and the best solution it finds is 74.0 after 5,680 seconds.

## 5 Conclusions

In this work, we have presented a basic global logic-based outer approximation method for nonconvex GDPs and improved it with two enhancements. The algorithm was tested with three examples, 20 random instances of each of the first two and a one of the last one. The first enhancement improves the finding of feasible solutions by partitioning the algorithm into two phases and diversifying the search of feasible solutions in the first phase. The partition of the algorithm considerably improves the finding of good solutions in the layout-optimization of screening systems and in the design of a distillation column. In the former, the basic algorithm finds an average relative upper bound of 1.3 and it improves to 1.1 with the two phases. In the latter, the algorithm improves from not finding a feasible solution to finding the best known solution. The search of feasible solutions is further enhanced with the use of a penalty in the objective function that diversifies search. This strategy is useful in the three problems, and the results show a speed up in the finding of good feasible solutions. Furthermore, in the first example the best found solution also improves from 1.1 average relative upper bound to 1.

The second enhancement is a cutting plane method to improve the lower bounding of the algorithm. If polyhedral envelopes are used in the master problem, considering the tight variable bounds used in the examples, this method is useful only slightly in the second example. However, when the relaxation of the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear terms the method is extremely useful in the 40 instances of the first two examples. This result is very promising, since it indicates that for problems in which the

linear relaxation is poor the method can derive strong cutting planes that will considerably improve the linear approximation. Note that if the bounds of the variables are poor the polyhedral envelopes will tend to be poor as well. However, the cutting planes obtained through the method presented in this work depend only on the feasible region of the disjunctive term (e.g. processing units). This means that as long as the feasible region is the same, the cutting planes obtained through the method are the same regardless of the variable bounds.

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## A Appendix A: GDP formulations of numerical examples

## A.1 GDP formulation for layout-optimization of screening systems in recovered paper production.

Nomenclature:

SETS:

 $J = \{fib, st\}$  Components (fibre is the "good component" and stickies is the "bad component").

$$N = S \cup \{ta, tr\}$$
: Total nodes in the system (possible screens, total accept, and total reject).

S: Possible screens.

PARAMETERS (all parameters are greek letters or capital letters):

 $\alpha_s$ : Exponent coefficient for cost in screen s

 $\beta_{s,j}$ : Acceptance factor beta for screen s and component j.

 $C_s^1$ : Cost coefficient 1 for screen s.

 $C_s^2$ : Cost coefficient 2 for screen s.

 $C_{st}^{up}$ : Maximum percentage of inlet stickies accepted in the total accepted flow.

 $F_i^0$ : Source flow of component j.

 $[F_s^{in,lo}, F_s^{in,up}]$ : Lower and upper bound of flow into screen s.

 $W^1, W^2, W^3$ : Weighting factors in objective function for lost fire, accepted stickies, and capital cost respectively.

#### CONTINUOUS (POSITIVE) VARIABLES:

 $c_s$ : Cost of screen s.

 $f_s$ : Total inlet flow into screen s.

 $f_{n,j}^{I}$ : Inlet flow of component j into node n.

 $f_{s,j}^A$ : Accepted flow of component j from screen s.

 $f_{s,j}^R$ : Rejected flow of component *j* form screen *s*.

 $m_{s,n,j}^A$ : Accepted flow of component j from screen s to node n.

 $m_{s,n,j}^R$ : Rejected flow of component j from screen s to node n.

 $m_{n,j}^0$ : Flow of component j from source to node n.

 $r_s$ : Reject rate of screen s.

#### BOOLEAN VARIABLES:

 $Y_s$ : Selection of screen s.

 $YA_{s,n}$ : Existence of accepted flow from screen s to node n.

 $YR_{s,n}$ : Existence of rejected flow from screen s to node n.

 $Y0_n$ : Existence of flow from source to node n.

GDP model:

$$min \quad W^1 f^I_{tr,fib} + W^2 f^I_{ta,st} + W^3 \sum_{s \in S} c_s$$

$$s.t. \qquad f^I_{ta,st} \le C^{up}_{st} F^0_{st}$$

$$f_{s,j}^{I} = f_{s,j}^{A} + f_{s,j}^{R} \qquad s \in S, j \in J$$
$$f_{s,j} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_{s,j}^{I} \qquad s \in S, j \in J$$

$$f_s = \sum_{j \in J} f_{s,j}^I \qquad \qquad s \in S$$

$$f_{n,j}^{I} = m_{n,j}^{0} + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ s \neq n}} \left( m_{s,n,j}^{A} + m_{s,n,j}^{R} \right) \qquad n \in N, j \in J$$

$$F_j^0 = \sum_{n \in N} m_{n,j}^0 \qquad \qquad j \in J$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{s} \\ F_{s}^{in,lo} \leq f_{s}^{I} \leq F_{s}^{in,up} \\ f_{s,j}^{R} = f_{s,j}^{I}(r_{s})^{\beta_{s,j}} \quad j \in J \\ c_{s} = C_{s}^{1}(f_{s}^{I})^{\alpha_{s}} + C_{s}^{2}(1 - r_{s}) \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_{s} \\ f_{s}^{I} = 0 \\ c_{s} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad s \in S$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} YA_{s,n} \\ m_{s,n,j}^{A} = f_{s,j}^{A} \quad j \in J \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg YA_{s,n} \\ m_{s,n,j}^{A} = 0 \quad j \in J \end{bmatrix} \quad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} YR_{s,n} \\ m_{s,n,j}^{R} = f_{s,j}^{R} \quad j \in J \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg YR_{s,n} \\ m_{s,n,j}^{R} = 0 \quad j \in J \end{bmatrix} \quad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y0_{n} \\ m_{n,j}^{0} = F_{j}^{0} \quad j \in J \\ m_{n',j}^{0} = 0 \quad n' \neq n, j \in J \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\stackrel{\bigvee}{\sum_{n \in N} Y0_{n} \\ YA_{s,n} \lor YR_{s,n} \Rightarrow Y_{s} \qquad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s$$

$$YA_{s',s} \lor YR_{s',s} \Rightarrow Y_{s} \qquad (s,s') \in S, s' \neq s$$

$$YA_{s',s} \lor YR_{s,s'} \qquad (s,s') \in S, s' \neq s$$

$$YA_{s,n} \lor YR_{s,n} \qquad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s$$

$$YA_{s,n} \lor YR_{s,n} \qquad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s$$

$$YA_{s,n} \lor YR_{s,n} \qquad s \in S, n \in N, n \neq s$$

## A.2 GDP formulation for reactor-separator process superstructure.

Nomenclature:

SETS:

I: Components (a, b, c).

 $K = R \cup S$ : Total processing units.

R: Reactors.

S: Separation units.

P: Sources of raw materials.

#### PARAMETERS:

Raw materials.

 $C_{p,i}^{0}$ : Molar concentration of component *i* in raw material *p*.

 $PR_p^0$ : Cost of raw material p.

 $F_p^{0,up}$ : Maximum availability of raw material p.

Demand.

 $M_c^D$ : Minimum mol fraction of component c in demand stream.

 $F^D$ : Minimum demand (total flow).

#### Separation:

 $\xi_{s,i} \in \{0,1\}$ :  $\xi_{s,i} = 1$  of component *i* exits outlet stream *out*1 in separation process *s*.  $\xi_{s,i} = 0$  of component *i* exits outlet stream *out*2.

#### Reactors:

 $\gamma_r$ : Minimum concentration ratio between component a and b.

 $k_r$ : Reaction rate constant for reactor r.

 $r_r$ : Design residence time for reactor r.

All units:

 $\alpha_k$ : Cost coefficient for unit k.

 $\beta_k$ : Cost exponent for unit k.

 $PP_{k,k'}^0$ : Cost of installing a pipeline between unit k and unit k'.

Variable bounds:

 $[F_k^{lo}, F_k^{up}]$ : Lower and upper bound of total flow into unit k.

 $[C_{k,i}^{lo}, C_{k,i}^{up}]$ : Lower and upper bound of molar concentration of *i* into unit *k*.

 $[\mu_{k,k'}^{lo}, \mu_{k,k'}^{up}]$ : Lower and upper bound of total flow from unit k into unit k'.

 $[\nu_{k,k',i}^{lo}, \nu_{k,k',i}^{up}]$ : Lower and upper bound of molar concentration of component *i* in stream from unit *k* into unit *k'*.

#### CONTINUOUS (POSITIVE) VARIABLES:

 $F_k^{in}$ : Inlet stream for unit k.

 $F_r^{out}$ : Outlet stream of reactor r.

 $F_s^{out1}, F_s^{out2} {\rm :}$  Outlet streams 1 and 2 of separation unit s.

 $C_{k,i}^{in}$ : Molar concentration of *i* in the inlet stream for unit *k*.

 $C_{r,i}^{out}$ : Molar concentration of *i* in the outlet stream of reactor *r*.

 $C_{s,i}^{out1}, C_{s,i}^{out2}$ : Molar concentration of *i* in the outlet streams (*out1*, *out2*) of unit *s*.

 $\mu_{r,k}$ : Total flow from reactor r to unit k.

 $\nu_{r,k,i}$ : Molar concentration of component *i* in stream from reactor *r* into unit *k*.

 $\mu_{s,k}^{out1}, \mu_{s,k}^{out2}$ : Total flow from outlet streams (*out1*, *out2*) of unit s to unit k.

 $\nu_{s,k,i}^{out1}, \nu_{s,k,i}^{out2}$ : Molar concentration of component *i* in stream from outlet streams (*out*1, *out*2) of unit *s* to unit *k*.

 $\mu_{p,k}^{raw}$ : Flow of raw material from source p ro unit k.

 $\mu_r^D$ : Flow of outlet stream from reactor r to demand.

 $\mu_s^{out1,D}, \mu_s^{out2,D}$ : Flow of outlet streams (out1, out2) from separation unit s to demand.

 $\nu_{r,i}^D$ : Molar concentration of component *i* in flow of outlet stream from reactor *r* to demand.

 $\nu_{s,i}^{out1,D}, \mu_{s,i}^{out2,D}$ : Molar concentration of component *i* in flow of outlet streams (*out1*, *out2*) from separation unit *s* to demand.

 $PU_k$ : Cost of unit k.

 $PP_{k,k'}$ : Cost of pipeline from unit k to unit k'.

 $PU^T, PP^T, PR^T$ : Total cost of units, pipelines and raw materials.

#### **BOOLEAN VARIABLES:**

 $Y_k$ : selection of unit k.

 $YF_{r,k}$ : Existence of flow between reactor r and unit k.

 $YF_{s,k}^{out1}, YF_{s,k}^{out2}$ : Existence of flow between outlet streams from separation unit s and unit k.

For clarity in the GDP model, we partition the model in several sections. The first section includes constraints related to total costs and demand satisfaction:

$$\min PU^{T} + PP^{T} + PR^{T}$$

$$s.t. \quad PU^{T} = \sum_{k \in K} PU_{k}$$

$$PP^{T} = \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{\substack{k' \in K \\ k \neq k'}} PP_{k,k'}$$

$$PR^{T} = \sum_{p \in P} PR_{p}^{p} \sum_{k \in K} \mu_{p,k}^{raw}$$

$$\sum_{r \in R} \mu_{r}^{D} + \sum_{s \in S} (\mu_{s}^{out1,D} + \mu_{s}^{out2,D}) \ge F^{D}$$

$$M_{c}^{D} \left( \sum_{r \in R} \mu_{r}^{D} \sum_{i \in I} \nu_{r,i}^{D} + \sum_{s \in S} (\mu_{s}^{out1,D} \sum_{i \in I} \nu_{s,i}^{out1,D} + \mu_{s}^{out2,D} \sum_{i \in I} \nu_{s,i}^{out2,D}) \right)$$

$$\leq \sum_{r \in R} \mu_{r}^{D} \nu_{r,c}^{D} + \sum_{s \in S} (\mu_{s}^{out1,D} \nu_{s,c}^{out1,D} + \mu_{s}^{out2,D} \nu_{s,c}^{out2,D})$$

$$\sum_{k \in K} \mu_{p,k}^{raw} \le F_{p}^{0,up} \qquad p \in P$$

$$(14)$$

The next constraints represent the mixing and splitting before and after unit k:

$$F_{k}^{in} = \sum_{\substack{r \in R \\ r \neq k}} \mu_{r,k} + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ s \neq k}} (\mu_{s,k}^{out1} + \mu_{s,k}^{out2}) + \sum_{p \in P} \mu_{p,k}^{raw} \qquad k \in K$$

$$F_{k}^{in}C_{k,i}^{in} = \sum_{\substack{r \in R \\ r \neq k}} \mu_{r,k}\nu_{r,k,i} + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ s \neq k}} (\mu_{s,k}^{out1}\nu_{s,k,i}^{out1} + \mu_{s,k}^{out2}\nu_{s,k,i}^{out2}) + \sum_{p \in P} \mu_{p,k}^{raw}C_{p,i}^{0} \qquad \qquad k \in K, i \in I$$

$$F_r^{out} = \sum_{\substack{k \in K \\ k \neq r}} \mu_{r,k} + \mu_r^D \qquad r \in R$$

$$F_s^{out1} = \sum_{\substack{k \in K \\ k \neq s}} \mu_{s,k}^{out1} + \mu_s^{out1,D} \qquad \qquad s \in S$$

$$F_s^{out2} = \sum_{\substack{k \in K \\ k \neq s}} \mu_{s,k}^{out2} + \mu_s^{out2,D} \qquad \qquad s \in S$$

$$C_{r,i}^{out} = \nu_{r,k,i} \qquad \qquad r \in R, k \in K, k \neq r, i \in I$$

$$C_{r,i}^{out} = \nu_{r,i}^D \qquad \qquad r \in R, i \in I$$

$$C^{out1}_{s,i} = \nu^{out1}_{s,k,i} \qquad \qquad s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s, i \in I$$

$$C^{out2}_{s,i} = \nu^{out2}_{s,k,i} \qquad \qquad s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s, i \in I$$

$$C_{s,i}^{out1} = \nu_{s,i}^{out1,D} \qquad \qquad s \in S, i \in I$$

$$C^{out2}_{s,i} = \nu^{out2,D}_{s,i} \qquad \qquad s \in S, i \in I$$

## (15)

The following constraints represent the selection or not of processing units:

The last set of equations represents the existence or not of flow between units.

$$\begin{bmatrix} YF_{s,k}^{out1} \\ PP_{s,k} = PP_{s,k}^{0} \\ \mu_{s,k}^{lo} \le \mu_{s,k}^{out1} \le \mu_{s,k}^{up} \\ \nu_{s,k,i}^{lo} \le \nu_{s,k,i}^{out1} \le \mu_{s,k}^{up} \quad i \in I \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_{s,k}^{out1} \\ \mu_{s,k} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad s \in S$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} YF_{s,k}^{out2} \\ PP_{s,k} = PP_{s,k}^{0} \\ \mu_{s,k}^{lo} \le \mu_{s,k}^{out2} \le \mu_{s,k}^{up} \\ \nu_{s,k,i}^{lo} \le \nu_{s,k,i}^{out2} \le \mu_{s,k}^{up} \\ \nu_{s,k,i}^{lo} \le \nu_{s,k,i}^{up} \le \nu_{s,k,i}^{up} \quad i \in I \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_{s,k}^{out2} \\ \mu_{s,k} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad s \in S$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} YF_{r,k} \\ PP_{r,k} = PP_{r,k}^{0} \\ \nu_{r,k,i}^{lo} \le \mu_{r,k} \le \mu_{r,k}^{up} \\ \nu_{r,k,i}^{lo} \le \nu_{r,k,i}^{up} \le I \end{bmatrix} \lor \begin{bmatrix} \neg Y_{r,k} \\ \mu_{r,k} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad r \in R$$

$$YF_{r,k} \Rightarrow Y_{r}r \in R, k \in K, k \neq r$$

$$YF_{s,k}^{out2} \Rightarrow Y_{s}s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s$$

$$YF_{r,k}^{out2} \Rightarrow Y_{s}s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s$$

$$YF_{s,k}^{out2} \Rightarrow Y_{k}s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s$$

$$YF_{s,k}^{out2} \Rightarrow Y_{k}s \in S, k \in K, k \neq s$$

## **B** Appendix B: Tested instances

This Appendix includes four tables. Table 2 presents the problem size of the tested instances, after performing the MINLP reformulation using the BM. The remaining 3 tables present the performance of BARON, the algorithm, and the different enhancements. Tables 3, 4, and 5 present results of individual instances for 5, 30, and 120 minutes respectively.

Туре	Instance	Constraints	Variables	0-1 Variables	Best known solution
Layout	1	1185	341	86	110.3
Layout	2	1185	341	86	128.2
Layout	3	1185	341	86	157.6
Layout	4	1185	341	86	119.8
Layout	5	1185	341	86	133.2
Layout	6	1185	341	86	50.9
Layout	7	1185	341	86	36.5
Layout	8	1185	341	86	43.2
Layout	9	1185	341	86	35.1
Layout	10	1185	341	86	36.5
Layout	11	1546	438	114	94.4
Layout	12	1546	438	114	128.2
Layout	13	1546	438	114	157.6
Layout	14	1546	438	114	110.2
Layout	15	1546	438	114	133.2
Layout	16	1546	438	114	24.9
Layout	17	1546	438	114	36.6
Layout	18	1546	438	114	43.2
Layout	19	1546	438	114	32.4
Layout	20	1546	438	114	36.5
Reactor	1	553	359	21	114.9
Reactor	2	553	359	21	126.2
Reactor	3	553	359	21	113.5
Reactor	4	553	359	21	112.4
Reactor	5	553	359	21	116.5
Reactor	6	1497	992	46	111.8
Reactor	7	1497	992	46	123.8
Reactor	8	1497	992	46	123.8
Reactor	9	1497	992	46	106.4
Reactor	10	1497	992	46	110.6
Reactor	11	2131	1414	75	110.3
Reactor	12	2131	1414	75	113.7
Reactor	13	2131	1414	75	117.6
Reactor	14	2131	1414	75	135.3
Reactor	15	2131	1414	75	106
Reactor	16	2867	1904	96	661
Reactor	17	2867	1904	96	113.8
Reactor	18	2867	1904	96	155.4
Reactor	19	2867	1904	96	111.3
Reactor	20	2867	1904	96	153.2

Table 2: Tested instances for layout-optimization of screening systems and superstructures of reactors and separation units.

Table 3: Performance of the BARON, the algorithm, and the different enhancements after 5 minutes. Basic = Basic GLBOA, 2-phase = two-phase algorithm without penalty function or cuts, 2-phase+P = two-phase algorithm with penalty function but without cuts, Total = Algorithm with all enhancements, No MC = Algorithm without cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. No MC + c = Algorithm with cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. LB and LN = relative lower and upper bounds.

		BAF	RON	Basic		2-phase		2-phase+P		Total		No MC		No MC + c	
Туре	Inst.	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB
Layout	1	0.58	1.3	0.63	1.13	0.55	1.05	0.55	1.08	0.55	1.08	0	1.18	0	1.21
Layout	2	0.48	1.09	0.58	1.16	0.56	1	0.56	1	0.56	1.12	0	1.18	0	1.25
Layout	3	0.33	1.25	0.5	1.23	0.48	1	0.48	1	0.48	1.05	0	1.16	0	1.33
Layout	4	0.52	1.25	0.59	1.28	0.56	1.04	0.56	1.05	0.56	1.07	0	1.18	0	1.28
Layout	5	0.43	1.25	0.52	1.29	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	1.17	0	1.24
Layout	6	0.59	1.24	0.58	1.49	0.56	1.49	0.56	1.16	0.56	1.24	0	1.46	0	1.55
Layout	7	0.87	1.05	0.65	1.23	0.55	1.23	0.55	1.29	0.55	1.29	0	1.12	0	1.23
Layout	8	0.7	1.02	0.71	1.33	0.67	1.33	0.67	1	0.67	1.14	0	1.27	0	1.42
Layout	9	0.87	1	0.73	1.41	0.63	1.41	0.63	1.47	0.63	1.47	0	1.18	0	1.42
Layout	10	0.81	1	0.74	1.42	0.64	1.42	0.64	1	0.64	1.07	0	1.3	0	1.3
Layout	11	0.31	1.23	0.52	1.21	0.49	1.04	0.49	1.17	0.49	1.32	0	1.17	0	1.23
Layout	12	0.27	1.19	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	1.19	0	1.24
Layout	13	0.22	1.21	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	1.15	0	1.15
Layout	14	0.31	1.27	0.61	1.52	0.59	1.15	0.59	1.09	0.59	1.48	0	1.17	0	1.18
Layout	15	0.25	1.3	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	1.2	0	1.28
Layout	16	0.81	1	0.69	1.2	0.49	1.2	0.49	1.2	0.49	1.2	0	1.2	0	1.29
Layout	17	0.63	1.4	0.71	1.48	0.59	1.04	0.59	1.04	0.59	1.12	0	1.23	0	1.48
Layout	18	0.38	1.25	0.7	1.35	0.67	1	0.67	1	0.67	1.01	0	1.27	0	1.17
Layout	19	0.61	1.27	0.77	1.44	0.62	1.44	0.62	1.03	0.62	1.03	0	1.2	0	1.56
Layout	20	0.5	1.44	0.72	1.46	0.64	1	0.64	1	0.64	1.1	0	1.24	0	1.64
Reactor	1	0.93	1.12	0.91	1	0.9	1	0.9	1.03	0.9	1	0.61	1.02	0.61	1.03
Reactor	2	0.92	NA	0.91	NA	0.91	NA	0.9	1.03	0.9	1.03	0.56	1.07	0.56	1.1
Reactor	3	0.93	NA	0.93	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	1.03	0.92	1.05	0.63	1.04	0.63	1.12
Reactor	4	0.95	NA	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.63	1	0.63	1
Reactor	5	0.92	NA	0.91	1.01	0.91	1.05	0.91	1.01	0.91	1.03	0.61	1	0.61	1.05
Reactor	6	0.91	NA	0.89	1.06	0.89	1	0.89	1.01	0.89	1.01	0.63	1.01	0.63	1.06
Reactor	7	0.81	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	1.03	0.79	1.04	0.57	1.02	0.57	1
Reactor	8	0.95	NA	0.93	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	1.07	0.92	1.09	0.57	1.08	0.57	1.1
Reactor	9	0.95	NA	0.95	1.02	0.95	1.02	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.67	1	0.67	1
Reactor	10	0.92	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	1.03	0.92	1.06	0.64	1.42	0.64	1.03
Reactor	11	0.9	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	1.13	0.9	1.04	0.9	1.05	0.64	1.02	0.64	1.05
Reactor	12	0.96	NA	0.95	1.04	0.93	1	0.94	1	0.93	1.01	0.62	1	0.62	1
Reactor	13	0.89	NA	0.89	NA	0.89	NA	0.88	1	0.88	1.01	0.6	1.12	0.6	1
Reactor	14	0.78	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	1.05	0.77	1.04	0.52	1.06	0.52	1.04
Reactor	15	0.97	NA	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.01	0.97	1	0.67	1.04	0.67	1
Reactor	16	0.99	NA	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.11	1.01	0.99	1
Reactor	17	0.91	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	1.06	0.9	1.04	0.62	1.05	0.62	1.05
Reactor	18	0.66	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	1.07	0.66	1.01	0.46	1.89	0.46	1.25
Reactor	19	0.96	NA	0.95	1.01	0.95	1.01	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.64	1.02	0.64	1.01
Reactor	20	0.7	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	1	0.7	1.04	0.46	1.83	0.46	1.09

Table 4: Performance of the BARON, the algorithm, and the different enhancements after 30 minutes. Basic = Basic GLBOA, 2-phase = two-phase algorithm without penalty function or cuts, 2-phase+P = two-phase algorithm with penalty function but without cuts, Total = Algorithm with all enhancements, No MC = Algorithm without cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. No MC + c = Algorithm with cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. LB and LN = relative lower and upper bounds.

		BAF	RON	ON Basic		2-phase		2-phase+P		Total		No MC		No MC + c	
Туре	Inst.	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB
Layout	1	0.74	1.08	0.64	1.1	0.63	1	0.63	1.04	0.67	1.02	0	1.13	0.5	1.07
Layout	2	0.65	1.09	0.59	1.16	0.59	1	0.59	1	0.6	1	0	1.14	0.45	1.07
Layout	3	0.53	1.25	0.51	1.21	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.51	1	0	1.15	0.38	1.12
Layout	4	0.65	1.08	0.59	1.21	0.59	1	0.59	1.05	0.62	1	0	1.14	0.47	1.18
Layout	5	0.58	1.24	0.53	1.25	0.52	1	0.52	1	0.53	1	0	1.13	0.38	1
Layout	6	0.74	1.03	0.59	1.39	0.58	1	0.59	1.04	0.62	1	0	1.45	0.51	1.12
Layout	7	0.98	1	0.68	1.23	0.66	1.23	0.67	1	0.66	1.23	0	1.12	0.53	1.11
Layout	8	0.84	1	0.72	1.31	0.72	1.31	0.72	1	0.7	1	0	1.26	0.6	1.01
Layout	9	1	1	0.76	1.41	0.74	1.41	0.73	1.41	0.76	1	0	1.17	0.58	1.17
Layout	10	0.92	1	0.75	1.35	0.75	1.35	0.75	1	0.79	1	0	1.3	0.61	1.3
Layout	11	0.47	1.23	0.54	1.2	0.52	1	0.53	1.07	0.53	1.04	0	1.17	0.35	1.04
Layout	12	0.44	1.19	0.57	1.21	0.55	1	0.55	1.07	0.55	1.08	0	1.19	0.4	1.09
Layout	13	0.36	1.21	0.49	1.23	0.48	1	0.48	1	0.48	1.01	0	1.14	0.34	1.01
Layout	14	0.54	1.27	0.62	1.35	0.61	1	0.61	1	0.61	1.05	0	1.17	0.46	1.05
Layout	15	0.39	1.24	0.51	1.37	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	1.06	0	1.2	0.35	1
Layout	16	1	1	0.73	1.2	0.73	1.15	0.7	1.03	0.71	1	0	1.2	0.57	1.2
Layout	17	0.78	1	0.73	1.38	0.71	1	0.71	1	0.74	1	0	1.23	0.6	1.03
Layout	18	0.65	1.25	0.71	1.32	0.7	1	0.7	1	0.7	1.01	0	1.23	0.51	1
Layout	19	0.85	1.07	0.79	1.38	0.77	1.38	0.77	1	0.79	1	0	1.2	0.57	1.26
Layout	20	0.68	1.44	0.73	1.42	0.73	1	0.72	1	0.75	1.07	0	1.24	0.56	1
Reactor	1	0.93	1.12	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.62	1	0.91	1.03
Reactor	2	0.93	NA	0.91	NA	0.91	NA	0.91	1.02	0.91	1.01	0.57	1.02	0.9	1.06
Reactor	3	0.94	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	1.03	0.92	1.02	0.64	1.04	0.92	1.07
Reactor	4	0.98	NA	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.64	1	0.93	1
Reactor	5	0.94	NA	0.91	1.01	0.91	1.05	0.91	1.01	0.91	1	0.61	1	0.91	1
Reactor	6	0.93	NA	0.89	1.06	0.89	1	0.89	1.01	0.89	1.01	0.63	1.01	0.89	1.02
Reactor	7	0.81	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	1	0.79	1	0.57	1.01	0.79	1
Reactor	8	0.95	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	1.02	0.93	1	0.57	1.02	0.93	1.03
Reactor	9	0.98	NA	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.67	1	0.95	1
Reactor	10	0.95	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	1	0.92	1	0.64	1.04	0.92	1.01
Reactor	11	0.9	NA	0.9	1	0.9	1.04	0.9	1.01	0.9	1	0.64	1.02	0.9	1
Reactor	12	0.97	NA	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.62	1	0.95	1
Reactor	13	0.89	NA	0.89	NA	0.89	1.08	0.89	1	0.89	1	0.6	1.12	0.89	1
Reactor	14	0.79	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	1.03	0.77	1	0.52	1.06	0.77	1
Reactor	15	0.98	NA	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.01	0.97	1	0.67	1.04	0.97	1
Reactor	16	0.99	1.05	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.11	1.01	0.99	1
Reactor	17	0.92	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	1.02	0.9	1.02	0.62	1.05	0.9	1.02
Reactor	18	0.67	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	1.06	0.66	1.01	0.46	1.36	0.66	1
Reactor	19	0.96	NA	0.95	1.01	0.95	1.01	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.64	1.02	0.95	1.01
Reactor	20	0.71	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	1	0.7	1	0.46	1.21	0.7	1.04

Table 5: Performance of the BARON, the algorithm, and the different enhancements after 120 minutes. Basic = Basic GLBOA, 2-phase = two-phase algorithm without penalty function or cuts, 2-phase+P = two-phase algorithm with penalty function but without cuts, Total = Algorithm with all enhancements, No MC = Algorithm without cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. No MC + c = Algorithm with cuts in which the master problem is obtained by dropping the nonlinear constraints. LB and LN = relative lower and upper bounds.

		BARON H		Ba	sic 2-pl		hase	ase 2-phas		Total		No MC		No MC + c	
Туре	Inst.	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB	LB	UB
Layout	1	0.83	1.07	0.66	1.1	0.65	1	0.65	1.04	0.74	1.02	0	1.13	0.59	1.04
Layout	2	0.73	1.03	0.59	1.16	0.59	1	0.59	1	0.62	1	0	1.14	0.52	1.07
Layout	3	0.62	1.07	0.51	1.21	0.51	1	0.51	1	0.58	1	0	1.14	0.44	1.12
Layout	4	0.74	1.03	0.6	1.18	0.6	1	0.6	1.05	0.72	1	0	1.14	0.5	1.15
Layout	5	0.68	1.23	0.53	1.25	0.53	1	0.53	1	0.58	1	0	1.13	0.47	1
Layout	6	0.75	1	0.6	1.38	0.6	1	0.6	1.04	0.64	1	0	1.45	0.61	1.12
Layout	7	0.98	1	0.7	1.23	0.69	1.23	0.7	1	0.74	1.11	0	1.12	0.72	1.05
Layout	8	0.91	1	0.74	1.31	0.74	1.31	0.73	1	0.82	1	0	1.26	0.73	1.01
Layout	9	1	1	0.79	1.3	0.78	1.3	0.78	1.3	0.87	1	0	1.17	0.77	1.17
Layout	10	1	1	0.77	1.35	0.77	1.35	0.77	1	0.86	1	0	1.3	0.73	1.3
Layout	11	0.62	1.23	0.55	1.13	0.55	1	0.55	1.07	0.59	1.04	0	1.17	0.45	1.04
Layout	12	0.53	1.19	0.58	1.18	0.58	1	0.58	1.07	0.61	1.08	0	1.19	0.47	1.09
Layout	13	0.45	1.21	0.5	1.22	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.52	1.01	0	1.14	0.42	1.01
Layout	14	0.62	1.27	0.62	1.19	0.62	1	0.62	1	0.68	1.05	0	1.17	0.54	1.05
Layout	15	0.46	1.24	0.52	1.33	0.52	1	0.52	1	0.58	1.06	0	1.2	0.44	1
Layout	16	1	1	0.75	1.2	0.75	1.15	0.74	1.03	0.82	1	0	1.2	0.68	1.16
Layout	17	0.87	1	0.75	1.38	0.74	1	0.74	1	0.77	1	0	1.23	0.7	1.03
Layout	18	0.75	1.06	0.72	1.32	0.71	1	0.71	1	0.79	1.01	0	1.23	0.63	1
Layout	19	0.97	1.01	0.82	1.38	0.82	1.38	0.81	1	0.86	1	0	1.2	0.75	1.25
Layout	20	0.77	1.1	0.74	1.41	0.74	1	0.74	1	0.84	1.07	0	1.24	0.7	1
Reactor	1	0.93	1.12	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.62	1	0.91	1.03
Reactor	2	0.93	NA	0.91	1	0.91	NA	0.91	1.02	0.91	1.01	0.57	1.02	0.91	1.06
Reactor	3	0.95	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	NA	0.93	1.03	0.93	1	0.64	1.01	0.93	1.07
Reactor	4	0.98	NA	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.64	1	0.93	1
Reactor	5	0.95	NA	0.91	1.01	0.91	1.05	0.91	1.01	0.91	1	0.61	1	0.91	1
Reactor	6	0.95	NA	0.89	1.06	0.89	1	0.89	1.01	0.89	1.01	0.63	1.01	0.89	1.02
Reactor	7	0.82	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	NA	0.79	1	0.79	1	0.57	1.01	0.79	1
Reactor	8	0.96	NA	0.93	1	0.93	1	0.93	1.02	0.93	1	0.57	1.02	0.93	1.03
Reactor	9	0.98	NA	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.67	1	0.95	1
Reactor	10	0.96	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	NA	0.92	1	0.92	1	0.64	1.04	0.92	1
Reactor	11	0.92	NA	0.9	1	0.9	1.04	0.9	1.01	0.9	1	0.64	1.02	0.9	1
Reactor	12	0.98	NA	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.62	1	0.95	1
Reactor	13	0.89	NA	0.89	NA	0.89	1.04	0.89	1	0.89	1	0.6	1.12	0.89	1
Reactor	14	0.8	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	NA	0.77	1.03	0.77	1	0.52	1.06	0.77	1
Reactor	15	0.99	NA	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.01	0.97	1	0.67	1.04	0.97	1
Reactor	16	0.99	1.05	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.11	1.01	0.99	1
Reactor	17	0.92	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	NA	0.9	1.02	0.9	1	0.62	1.05	0.9	1.02
Reactor	18	0.67	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	NA	0.66	1.06	0.66	1.01	0.46	1.36	0.66	1
Reactor	19	0.97	NA	0.95	1.01	0.95	1.01	0.95	1	0.95	1	0.64	1.02	0.95	1.01
Reactor	20	0.71	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	NA	0.7	1	0.7	1	0.46	1.21	0.7	1.04